



# People House

This is a great activity to do because it is so versatile and does not require many props or planning. It also creates a visual for the participants to see teamwork in action. It helps to tie in the idea of needing all the pieces of the puzzle to make a whole. No one person can make it complete.

## Setup:

- Have an area large enough to “construct” your house. Keep in mind the height of the “roof” of the house as well. An outdoor setting seems to work the best.
- Look over the introduction and wrap-up questions to select questions that apply to your group or activity.

## Materials:

- 4 wood stakes and 1 rubber mallet, or 4 rocks, cones, etc.
- 1 - 5' pole/broom handle with several 8'-10' plastic streamers or ribbons attached to one end
- Group of 8 or more youth

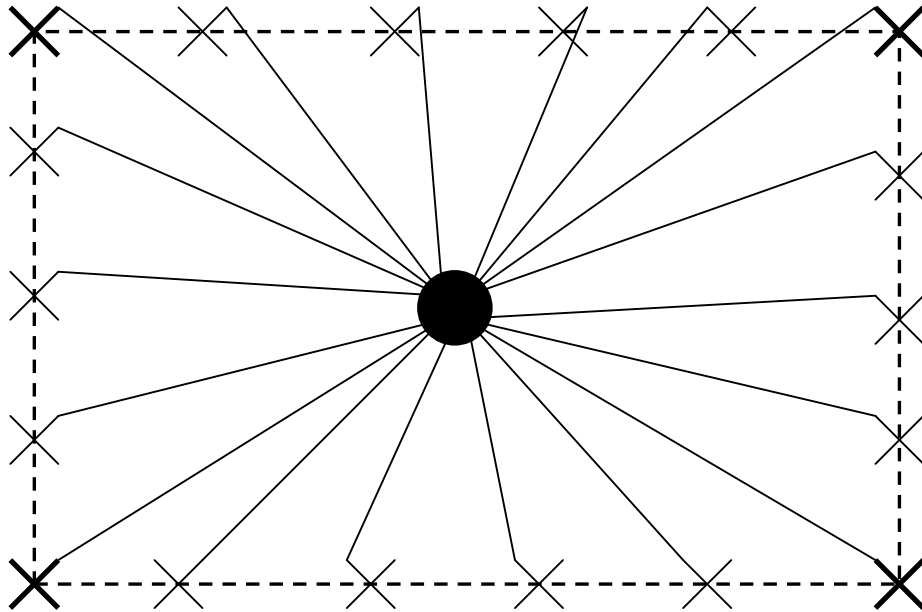
## Activity Steps:

- Explain to the group that you are going to build a house today.
- Using volunteers, stake out the four corners of the house, by pounding in real stakes or just placing rocks, cones or even “people” stakes. Pace off the four corners to create a house with a perimeter just about the size of your group.
- Pick four volunteers to be the “studs” to frame the house and place one at each of the four corners.
- Next, have the group line up to form the four outer walls of the house.
- Move around the walls, creating a few windows and front door by having participants hold their arms as the openings.
- Finally, select one participant to stand in the center of the house with the pole; pass out ribbons to “wall people” around the house. At this point it’s time to “raise the roof” by having the participant in the center hold up the pole as high as they can. See the figures on the “Visuals” page.
- Close by discussing your vision or successes, depending on the event. Use the questions in the wrap-up section to guide the discussion or come up with some of your own.

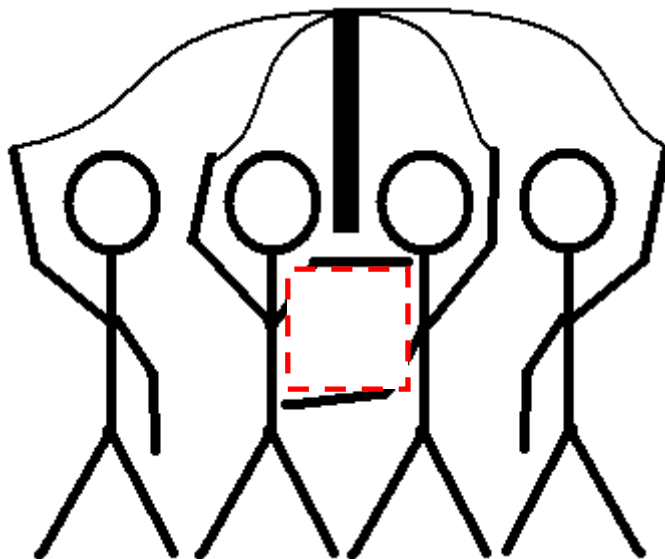
# Visuals

## People House

**Top View:** This is just a general idea of what your “house” will look like from a bird’s eye view. The dotted box is just a guideline for the outside border of your home. It could be whatever shape and dimensions you choose. The **bold X**’s are the corner “studs” of your house and the other X’s are the rest of the people in your group, depending on your group size.



**Side View:** This is just a general idea of what a section of one of the sides of your “house” will look like. The two people in the middle are forming a window with their inside arms, outlined by the red-dotted rectangle. All four of the “wall people” are holding a ribbon that is connected to the center pole.



# Wrap-up Questions

## People House

- What are some words you remember hearing during the activity?  
AND/OR What are some things you remember seeing during the activity?  
  
\*Note: This is to get everyone involved in the wrap-up part of the activity. Have everyone say one thing. These are simple questions to encourage participation. There is not a right or wrong answer, so participants should not feel threatened or fearful of answering.
  
- Did those words or images remind you of anything else?  
  
\*Note: The images or words may remind them of another time they used teamwork. This question is reflective and everyone might not be able or comfortable answering it.
  
- What is the most important stud or ribbon connection in this “house”?  
  
\*Answer: No one stud or ribbon connection is more important than any of the others. They are all essential to the end product.
  
- What would happen if one of the ribbons wasn’t connected to both the center pole and the “wall person”?  
  
\*Answer: The house wouldn’t be complete without one of the connections. That is like some of the shingles missing off of the roof. When it rains or snows the house would leak and not be safe for the home owners.
  
- Could just one person complete the “house” or whatever project you were doing? Why or why not?  
  
\*Answer: That one person would have to be a superhero or work for a really long time to complete it by them self. The project would be much easier and practical if it was done by a group of individuals.
  
- What kinds of people are required to make an actual Habitat for Humanity home?  
  
\*Answer: Just like this house is made up of people, Habitat houses require the help of many different people as well. There are the volunteers who build; the people who donate the money to buy the supplies and land; the affiliate workers who coordinate the volunteers’ materials and select the homeowners; the people who bring food and drink to those on the work site; and, of course, all the people who support Habitat in general by helping people to be aware of substandard and poverty housing and Habitat’s mission to eliminate it. Without just one of these links, like the individuals in the people’s home, a Habitat home would not be complete.